

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO:** Wendy Hansen

**FROM:** Dr. Don Cadle, President of Florida Dental Association

**DATE:** September 7, 2001

**RE:** Additional Questions for Interim Project

---

I. Does your current draft bill include a fee cap increase? If not, how do the dentists intend to pay for a private company? We need to figure this one out since the dentists will not be able to "borrow" money from other professions if they privatize.

The Florida Dental Association (FDA) recommends, if necessary, that a one-time assessment be mandated to fund the transition of administrative duties from the Department of Health to a statutorily created management corporation.

Currently the Board of Dentistry is projected to be in a deficit every other year until 2007. However, past projections have been inaccurate. The Board was convinced to reduce its fees approximately 2 years ago, due to a projected surplus for several years.

On another occasion, it was explained to the Board that a surplus was anticipated for a 2-year period. However, the Board ran a deficit within a 10 month period, with virtually no explanation from the Department of Health.

All costs of testing licenses should be born by the applicants, and therefore not affect the Board of Dentistry's cash balance.

II. Also, do any private companies already exist that could take on the contract for privatization?

No. The FDA is not aware of any private companies that are capable of undertaking such a task. The FDA recommends the implementation of a statutorily created Dental Management Corporation, similar to that utilized by the Board of Engineers.

III. How do the dentists intend to handle the following duties/functions currently performed by state employees:

1. Unlicensed activity investigation and prosecution

Currently, the investigations of unlicensed activity is conducted by the special unit within the Department of Health. Unlicensed individuals are not within the jurisdiction of a licensing board. It is not the intent of the FDA to expand the board's powers to include unlicensed activity.

2. Electronic application

The Dental Management Corporation should meet data processing standards which allow its computer systems to interface with the Department's centralized licensee data system.

3. Application review and recommendation to the board

The Board of Dentistry's Credential's Committee currently reviews all applications. The function of compiling the information for review by the Board of Dentistry would transfer to the Dental Management Corporation.

4. Exam administration

Several options exist. One would be for the Board of Dentistry to contract the exam administration back to the Department of Health's Bureau of Testing. The contract would establish standards addressing current security concerns, and the timeliness of reporting results. Currently, the Board has no control over such issues. Should the Department choose to not accept such a contract, other private sector options exist.

5. On-line renewal

This is another issue to be covered in the contract requiring basic capabilities for carrying out such functions. The Dental Management Corporation should meet data processing standards which allow its computer systems to interface with the Department's centralized licensee data system.

6. Respond to telephone calls re: complaints

Under the Management Corporation model, any one making a phone call to the Board of Dentistry would find a "live person" answering the phone who can immediately direct their call to the appropriate individual. Utilizing staff that investigates only dental complaints, staff specialization will provide for greater responsiveness.

7. Legal sufficiency determinations

The Board of Dentistry's probable cause panel will make determinations of legal sufficiency.

8. Issuance and enforcement of subpoenas

The Board of Dentistry

9. Emergency suspension or restriction orders

The Secretary of the Department shall maintain the sole authority for emergency suspension orders, based upon recommendations from the Board of Dentistry's probable cause panel.

Cc: Dan Buker, Florida Dental Association, Executive Director  
Debbie Huey, Florida Dental Association, Director of Governmental Affairs